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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-3221**

October 17, 2022

**HOUSE ARMED SERVICES  
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The Honorable Carlos Del Toro  
Secretary of the Navy  
1000 Navy Pentagon, Room 4D652  
Washington, D.C. 20350

Dear Secretary Del Toro:

As the 250th anniversary of the Battles of Saratoga approaches, I am writing to request that you name a United States Navy-commissioned vessel in honor of the monumental Battles of Saratoga. I am proud to represent the Saratoga Battlefield in New York's 21<sup>st</sup> District where the historic Battles of Saratoga took place. These battles marked the turning point of the American Revolution and laid the groundwork for the path to American victory over the British.

In 1777, British troops led by General John Burgoyne descended on Saratoga in an attempt to obtain control of the Hudson River Valley. General Horatio Gates and his American soldiers valiantly held off two British attacks at Saratoga. As the British retreated, the American Continental Army surrounded General Burgoyne and his troops and on October 17, 1777, General Burgoyne was forced to surrender to General Gates under the Convention of Saratoga. This moment is so foundational to American history that it is memorialized in the United States Capitol Rotunda with a painting depicting General Burgoyne's surrender. This crucial American victory persuaded France to recognize American independence and provide financial and military support that aided the American victory at Yorktown, in essence ending the Revolutionary War and securing America's independence.

In New York's 21st District we are proud of our history and believe it deserves to be honored, as it so often has been in the past. The Battles of Saratoga should continue to be celebrated and remembered as a critical moment in securing American independence. The U.S. Navy has named six prominent Navy ships after the Battles of Saratoga. The last of these ships was decommissioned in 1994. As the 250th anniversary of the Battles of Saratoga approaches in 2027, I encourage you to continue this tradition and name a new U.S. Navy ship after Saratoga to honor these historic battles and memorialize their significance in American democracy.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please do not hesitate to reach out to my office if you would like more information on the Battles of Saratoga or New York's 21st District.

Sincerely,



Elise M. Stefanik  
Member of Congress

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